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THE
ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS



OF THE FIRST

GENERAL SYNOD

OF THE

German Reformed Church

IN THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

AT

PITTSBURG, PA., NOVEMBER 18th to 25th, 1863.

CHAMBERSBURG, PA.:

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1864.

ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS.

In conformity with arrangements previously adopted, the General Synod of the German Reformed Church in the United States of America, convened for the first time, in Grace church, on the corner of Grant and Webster Streets, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on Wednesday the 18th of November, A. D., 1863, in the evening at 7 o'clock. After singing, and prayer by Rev. David Winters, the opening sermon, according to appointment, was preached by the Rev. John W. Nevin, D. D., from 1 Cor. 1: 21-24.

Thereupon, the Synod having been called to order, the Rev. Dr. J. W. Nevin was appointed President, *pro tem.*, who opened the Synod with prayer. The Rev. Moses Kieffer, D. D., was chosen Secretary, *pro tem.* But before proceeding further in effecting an organization, the Synod adjourned until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Dismissed with a doxology, and the benediction by the President.

THURSDAY, November 19th, 9 o'clock, A. M.

The Synod met, and, having been opened with singing and prayer by Rev. I. S. Demund, proceeded to make out the roll. The Rev. S. R. Fisher, D. D., was appointed to assist the Secretary, *pro tem.* in perfecting the roll. The following delegates, having presented their credentials, were found present and admitted to their seats, *viz.*:

FROM THE SYNOD OF THE GERMAN REFORMED CHURCH IN THE U. S.

1.) *East Pennsylvania Classis.*

Rev. Levi K. Derr, Joshua H. Derr, George B. Dechant* and John Gantenbein.

Elders—Nathan Miller and Stephen Ringer.

2.) *Zion's Classis.*

Rev. Theodore P. Bucher, Jacob O. Miller, William K. Zieber and Samuel Philips.

Elder—Stephen B. Kieffer, M. D.

3.) *Lebanon Classis.*

Rev. Henry Harbaugh, D. D., Franklin W. Kremer, George Wolff and Uriah H. Heilman.

Elders—George Heilman and John Meily.†

* Appeared on Thursday afternoon.

†Appeared on Monday forenoon.

4.) *Maryland Classis.*

Rev. Daniel Zacharias, D. D., John S. Foulk, William F. Colliflower and John Külling.

Elders—John Rodenmayer, David Zeller and Goldsboro S. Griffith.

5.) *Philadelphia Classis.*

Rev. John H. A. Bomberger, D. D. and Nicholas Gehr.
Elders—John Wiest, W. D. Gross and H. C. Hoover.*

6.) *Virginia Classis.*

[None present.]

7.) *North Carolina Classis.*

[None present.]

8.) *Mercersburg Classis.*

Rev. Samuel R. Fisher, D. D., Benjamin S. Schneck, D. D., Thomas G. Apple, John Rebaugh and Samuel H. Reid.

Elders—A. B. Wingerd, Henry Ruby and Adam Haderman.

9.) *Goshenhoppen Classis.*

Rev. Samuel Hess and A. L. Dechant.

Elders—Daniel B. Mauger† and T. B. Hillegas.

10.) *New York Classis.*

Rev. John B. Kniest.

Elders— * * * * * * * *

11.) *Lancaster Classis.*

Rev. John W. Nevin, D. D., Emanuel V. Gerhart, D. D., Isaae S. Demund and Martin A. Smith.

Elders— * * * * * * * *

12.) *East Susquehanna Classis.*

Rev. William Goodrich, Albert G. Dole and Henry S. Bassler

Elders— * * * * * * * *

13.) *West Susquehanna Classis.*

Rev. John C. Bucher, Franklin J. Mohr and Lewis C. Edmonds.‡

Elder—D. Leiby.

14.) *Clarion Classis.*

Rev. J. G. Shoemaker and F. Wise.††

Elders—John Hollabaugh and George Miller.¶

* Appeared on Monday afternoon.

† Appeared on Thursday afternoon.

‡ Succeeded by Rev. H. Weigandt, *secundus*, on Monday afternoon.

†† Succeeded by Rev. H. Daniel, *secundus*, Wednesday morning.

¶ Appeared on Thursday afternoon.

15.) *St. Paul's Classis.*

Rev. L. D. Leberman and George B. Russell.
Elders— * * * * * * * * *

FROM THE SYNOD OF THE GERMAN REFORMED CHURCH OF OHIO
 AND ADJACENT STATES.

1.) *Miami Classis.*

Rev. Peter C. Prugh, George W. Williard, David Winters
 Samuel Mease, Henry M. Herman and Isaac H. Reiter.

Elder—Andrew H. Baughman.

2.) *Lancaster Classis.*

Rev. Henry Williard, John McConnell and John I. Swander.
Elders—P. W. Dumbauld, Jos. Slough and Henry Leonard.

3.) *Iowa Classis.*

Rev. John Riale.

Elders— * * * * * * * *

4.) *Westmoreland Classis.*

Rev. E. E. Higbee, David H. Reiter* and Christian C. Russell.
Elders—M. Zimmerman, Henry L. Bear and Hugh Moore.†

5.) *Sandusky Classis.*

Rev. Jacob M. LeFever, W. B. Sandoe and Samuel B. Leiter.‡
Elders—John C. Kremer and Thomas W. Chapman.‡

6.) *Sheboygan Classis.*

Rev. Dr. James Bossard.

Elders— * * * * * * * *

7.) *Tiffin Classis.*

Rev. Eli Keller, Moses Kieffer, D. D., George Rettig, Herman J. Ruetenik and Joseph B. Thompson.

Elder—D. Arnold.

8.) *St. Joseph Classis.*

Rev. John Henry Klein and Charles Cast.‡

Elder—Peter Loose.

9.) *Indiana Classis.*

[None Present.]

10.) *Illinois Classis.*

Rev. Henry K. Baines and George Weber.

Elders— * * * * * * * *

*Succeeded by Rev. F. K. Levan, delegate *primarius*, on Saturday forenoon.

†Appeared on Saturday forenoon.

‡Appeared on Friday morning.

11.) *St. John's Classis.*

Rev. Robert Koehler and James Reinhart.*
Elder—Jacob Greenameyer.

Hereupon, the roll having been thus far completed, and finding a Constitutional quorum in attendance, the Synod proceeded to effect a permanent organization, by electing by acclamation,

REV. JOHN W. NEVIN, D. D., *President*, Lancaster, Pa.
 " MOSES KIEFFER, D. D., *Vice President*, Tiffin, Ohio.
 " DAN'L ZACHARIAS, D. D., *V. Pres't*, Frederick, Md.
 " ISAAC H. REITER, *Secretary*, Miamisburg, Ohio.
 " GEORGE W. WILLIARD, *Cor. Secretary*, Dayton, O.
 MR. JOHN WIEST, *Treasurer*, Philadelphia, Pa.

The President, on taking the chair, made some appropriate and impressive remarks, thanking the Synod for the honor conferred on him, and referring to the objects for which the General Synod was established—to the important interests entrusted to its care and supervision, and to the ends it would be expected to accomplish; and also pointing out the manner in which the business of this Synod and all the operations of the Church should be carried forward, as well as the kind of spirit that should characterize our conduct towards each other and towards other Christian denominations—ever keeping in view, in all synodical deliberations and enactments, and in all our labors of love, the glory of God, the example of Christ, the salvation of man, and the true prosperity of the Church.

On motion,

Resolved, That an Assistant Secretary be appointed to make a record of the proceedings of this Synod in the German language.

Thereupon, the Rev. HERMAN J. RUETENIK was appointed said Assistant Secretary.

ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT.

The following named persons were announced and recognized as Advisory members of this Synod:

THE SYNOD OF THE GERMAN REFORMED CHURCH IN THE U. S.

From East Pennsylvania Classis—Rev. F. Strassner.†
From Lancaster Classis—Rev. Daniel Gans.
From East Susquehanna Classis—Rev. J. W. Steinmetz.
From West Susquehanna Classis—Rev. Henry Wiegandt.‡
From Lebanon Classis—Rev. David W. Wolff.

*Appeared on Monday evening.

† Appeared on Tuesday afternoon.

‡ Appeared on Monday afternoon.

From Mercersburg Classis—Rev. William M. Dietrick, Jacob Hassler, Cyrus Cort, Nehemiah H. Skyles, N. E. Gilds and Walter E. Krebs.

From Clarion Classis—Rev. C. A. Limberg, C. R. Dieffenbacher and H. Daniel,‡ and Elders Adam Hepler‡ and Jacob Blinker.‡

From St. Paul's Classis—Rev. Frederick W. Dechant, Caspar Scheel and D. O. Shoemaker.¶

THE SYNOD OF THE GERMAN REFORMED CHURCH OF OHIO AND ADJACENT STATES.

From Miami Classis—Rev. John Lichtenstein and Elder Joseph H. Dryden.**

From Westmoreland Classis—Rev. Geo. H. Johnston, T. J. Barkley, F. A. Edmonds and H. W. Super,†† and Elders A. Beam†† and Josiah Miller.††

From Sandusky Classis—Rev. Cyrus H. Reiter and Nathaniel H. Loose.

From Tiffin Classis—Rev. Frederick Rahauser, Wm. H. Fenneman and Lewis H. Kefauver.††

From St. John's Classis—Rev. David Kaemmerer.

From Iowa Classis—Rev. Frederick C. Bauman.

On motion,

Resolved, That a committee, consisting of Rev. S. R. Fisher, D. D., H. Harbaugh, D. D., and G. B. Russell, be appointed to solicit a copy of the sermon preached last evening before this Synod, by Rev. Dr. John W. Nevin, for publication in pamphlet form, and, in case the manuscript be obtained, to have it published accordingly.

The Synod then proceeded to fix the regular hours of meeting and adjourning, whereupon it was ordered, that the sessions of Synod during the present meeting open at 9 o'clock in the morning and 2 o'clock in the afternoon, and close at 12 o'clock in the morning and 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

On motion,

Resolved, That a committee of eight be appointed to report a plan or order of business for this General Synod.

This Committee consists of Rev. Dr. S. R. Fisher, Dr. E. V. Gerhart, D. Winters, G. W. Williard, Dr. H. Harbaugh and Dr. M. Kieffer, and Elders Dr. S. B. Kieffer and Henry Leon-

‡ Appeared on Thursday afternoon.

¶ Appeared on Friday afternoon.

** Appeared on Saturday afternoon.

†† Appeared on Monday morning.

¶¶ Appeared on Monday afternoon.

ard. The Committee was permitted to retire in order to be prepared to report by the opening of the afternoon session.

Synod adjourned until 1 o'clock, P. M. Closed with prayer by Rev. T. G. Apple.

THURSDAY, November 19th, 2 o'clock, P. M.

Synod met, and was opened with singing and prayer by Rev. G. W. Williard. The roll was called and a quorum present.

The Rev. Geo. B. Dechant, delegate *secundus* from the East Pennsylvania Classis, and Elder D. B. Mauger, delegate from the Goshenhoppen Classis, appeared and took their seats.

The presence of the Rev. Dr. Eells, of the Presbyterian Church, was announced.

On motion, the Rev. Geo. H. Johnston and Rev. Cyrus Cort were appointed to act as reporters for the Daily Papers of the city of Pittsburg, during the sessions of Synod.

The Committee appointed to propose a plan or order of business for this General Synod, submitted their report, which was received, amended and adopted. It is as follows:

The Committee appointed to propose a plan or order of business for this General Synod, respectfully suggest, as the most effectual method of reaching the object contemplated, the appointment of Standing Committees on the following subjects:

- 1. *On Religious Exercises.*
- 2. *On Minutes of the General Synod.*
- 3. *On Minutes of the Synods.*
- 4. *On Overtures.*
- 5. *On Correspondence with Sister Churches.*
- 6. *On the State of the Church.*
- 7. *On Missions.*
- 8. *On Finance.*

Inasmuch as this is the first meeting of the General Synod since the adoption of the amendments to the Constitution by which it was created, the Committee are of opinion, that the Committee on Minutes of the Synods ought to confine their investigations to the Minutes of those meeting of the Synods, which have been held during the year 1863, except in matters of special reference.

Respectfully submitted,

SAMUEL R. FISHER, *Chairman.*

On motion,

Resolved, That a Committee of three be appointed on the subject of the Tercenary anniversary.

The Committee consists of Rev. Dr. H. Harbaugh, W. F. Colliflower and S. Mease, and Elders H. L. Bear and H. Leonard.

The presence of Rev. Mr. Snively, of the Methodist Church, was announced.

On motion,

Resolved, That all Elders present at the meeting of this Synod be admitted to a seat as advisory members.

Rev. H. Daniel and Elders Adam Hepler and Jacob Blin-ker, from the Clarion Classis, appeared and took their seats as advisory members.

Elder George Miller, delegate from Clarion Classis, appeared and took his seat.

At this stage of the proceedings, the President announced the following Standing Committees:

On Religious Exercises—Rev. E. E. Higbee, H. Williard and J. Gantenein.

On Minutes of the Synods—Rev. Dr. S. R. Fisher, G. W. Williard and J. H. Derr, and Elders George Heilnan and D. Arnold.

On Overtures—Rev. D. Winters, T. G. Apple and P. C. Prugh, and Elders A. B. Wingerd and P. Loose.

On Correspondence with Sister Churches—Rev. Dr. J. H. A. Bomberger, I. H. Reiter and Dr. J. Bossard, and Elder H. Ruby.

On the State of the Church—Rev. G. B. Russell, J. G. Shoemaker, and E. Keller, and Elders G. S. Griffith and W. D. Gross.

On Missions—Rev. J. S. Foulk, D. H. Reiter and J. Riale, and Elders J. Rodenmayer and Dr. S. B. Kieffer.

On Finance—Rev. M. A. Smith and Elders J. Wiest and M. Zimmerman.

A communication was received from Rev. Dr. P. Schaff, and referred to the Committee on Overtures.

Synod adjorned until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Prayer by Rev. Dr. B. S. Schneck.

FRIDAY, November 20th, 9 o'clock, A. M.

Synod met, and was opened with singing and prayer by Rev. J. H. Derr. A quorum present. The Minutes of yester-day were read and approved.

Rev. Samnel B. Leiter and Elder T. W. Chapman, dele-gates from the Sandusky Classis, appeared and took their seats.

Rev. Charles Cast, delegate from the St. Joseph Classis, appeared and took his seat.

Rev. D. O. Shoemaker, of St. Paul's Classis, appeared and took his seat as an advisory member.

The Committee on Religious Exercises submitted their report, which was received and adopted,

Your Committee would recommend services preparatory to the Lord's Supper in Grace church on Saturday at 3 o'clock, P. M. Sermon by Rev. D. Gans, assisted in the liturgical services by Rev. W. E. Krebs. On Sunday at 9 o'clock, A. M., addresses to the Sunday School and Catechumens, by Rev. P. C. Prugh and Elder H. Leonard. The Lord's Supper at 10½ o'clock. Sermon by Rev. Dr. M. Kieffer, assisted by Rev. D. Winters. This morning communion is especially designed for the congregation of Grace church, and those ministers who will necessarily be absent on Sunday evening. The Lord's Supper on Sunday evening at 7 o'clock, especially designed for the members of the General Synod. Sermon by Rev. Dr. H. Harbaugh, assisted by Rev. Dr. E. V. Gerhart.

Churches of sister denominations in Pittsburg and suburbs, through their respective Pastors, have also made application to have their pulpits filled on Sunday morning and evening, in view of which the following supplies are recommended, viz.

First Presbyterian church, morning, Rev. Dr. J. H. A. Bomberger; evening, Rev. T. P. Bueher.

Second Presbyterian church, morning, Rev. Dr. E. V. Gerhart; evening, Rev. Dr. Bomberger.

Third Presbyterian church, morning, Rev. Dr. J. W. Nevin; evening, Rev. Dr. D. Zacharias.

Fourth Presbyterian church, morning, Rev. S. Philips; evening, Rev. S. Mease.

Cumberland Presbyterian church, morning, Rev. P. C. Prugh; evening, Rev. S. H. Reid.

Methodist church, Penn St., morning, Rev. T. G. Apple; evening, Rev. J. S. Foulk.

Methodist church, South corner Alleghany, morning, Rev. J. H. Derr; evening, Rev. J. McConnell.

Baptist church, Grant Street, morning, Rev. Dr. Harbaugh; evening, Rev. Dr. M. Kieffer.

Lutheran church, Seventh Street, morning, Rev. ———; evening, Rev. S. Philips.

Presbyterian church at Lawrenceville, morning, Rev. S. H. Reid; evening, Rev. J. I. Swander.

North Presbyterian church, Alleghany city, morning, Rev. T. P. Bueher; afternoon, Rev. D. Gans.

Methodist Episcopal church, Beaver St., morning, T. J. Barkley; evening, Rev. J. Riale.

Second Methodist Protestant church, morning, Rev. H. K.

Baines; evening, Rev. S. B. Leiter.

Disciple church, morning, Rev. J. W. Steinmetz.

German Presbyterian church, Manchester, morning, Rev. J. Lichtenstein.

Presbyterian church, Alleghany, morning, Rev. I. S. Demund; evening, Rev. F. W. Kremer.

Methodist Protestant church, 5th street, morning, Rev. W. F. Colliflower.

Trinity Methodist church, 9th Ward, morning, Rev. J. Hassler; evening, Rev. G. H. Johnston.

Respectfully submitted,

E. E. HIGBEE, *Chairman.*

The Committee appointed on the subject of the Tercentenary Anniversary, submitted their report, which was received and adopted:

The Committee on the Tercentenary celebration, recommend to Synod that the whole of Saturday evening be devoted to a synodical commemoration of the present Festival Year, to be conducted according to the following order:

Introductory by the Choir: The Gloria in Excelsis.

Invocation, and the German Hymn, "Nun danket alle Gott," by Rev. J. Lichtenstein.

Prayer by Rev. Dr. Zacharias.

Addresses:—by Rev. Dr. J. H. A. Bomberger, Dr. M. Kieffer, Dr. B. S. Schneck, (in German,) Dr. E. V. Gerhart.

Hymn by Rev. Dr. S. R. Fisher.

Brief remarks in German or English by any member.

Prayer by Rev. J. Rebaugh.

Doxology and benediction by Rev. D. Winters.

Respectfully submitted,

H. HARBAUGH, *Chairman,*

The Committee on the Minutes of the Synods submitted their report, which was received, and reads as follows:

The Committee on Minutes of the Synods respectfully submit the following report:

They have examined the Minutes of the Synods, under the instructions connected with their appointment, and find the following items claiming the attention of this Synod:

I.) MINUTES OF THE SYNOD OF THE GERMAN REFORMED CHURCH
IN THE U. S.

Item 1. Minutes of 1861, pages 29 and 30. The propriety of organizing a Sunday School Association, to which shall be entrusted the superintendence of the entire Sunday School interests of our Church, is referred to the consideration of this General Synod.

Item 2, Minutes of 1863. A committee of three, consisting of the Rev. Geo. B. Russell, B. Bausman, and Elder John Meily, was appointed, to prepare a report on the subject of an Orphan Asylum, to be submitted to this General Synod.

Item 3, Same Minutes. The Synod has instructed its Treasurer to pay over to this General Synod \$500, part of a donation, made by the Rev. Dr. Philip Schaff, which, according to the expressed wishes of the donor, is to be invested as the "German Hymn Book Fund," the interest of which shall be used for such general Church purposes, as this Synod may see fit to designate.

Item 4, Same Minutes. The Synod, in view of the importance of the subject, and the fact that it concerns the whole Church East and West, commends to the earnest consideration of this General Synod, the question as to How the Synod holds its Church property; and has appointed a committee, consisting of the Rev. J. O. Miller, Hon. David Krause, Hon. John W. Killinger and Hon. John Cessna to prepare a legal paper on the subject and present it to this General Synod for information and consideration.

Item 5, Same Minutes. The Synod has adopted a resolution, declaring, that, while according to the Constitution, the Heidelberg Catechism *alone* can be used in Catechetical instruction, yet, in Sunday Schools other books *may* be used, provided always they harmonize with our doctrinal symbol, and that the Heidelberg Catechism be brought into prominent use in all our Sunday Schools; and for the purpose of eliciting more definite action on this subject, it respectfully refers it to this General Synod.

Item 6, Same Minutes. In view of the calamities which have befallen our beloved fatherland in the form of a desolating civil war, and remembering the example of Christ and his Apostles and that of our forefathers in the days of our own struggle for independence, the Synod respectfully recommends to this General Synod, the propriety of addressing to our ministers and congregations, a pastoral letter, administering to them such affectionate Christian counsel and advice, as, in the wisdom of this Synod, the case may seem to require.

Item 7, Same Minutes. The Synod further requests this General Synod to take into consideration the propriety of the following measures :

1.) The consolidation of the Theological Institutions of the Church into one—subject to the final action of the several Synods, which control the Seminaries.

2.) The establishment of at least two Tercentenary Professorships jointly for the Seminaries, and the appointment of one or more agents for the purpose.

II.) MINUTES OF THE SYNOD OF THE GERMAN REFORMED CHURCH
OF OHIO AND ADJACENT STATES.

Item 1. Minutes 1863, page 12. In view of the fact, that a great variety of Liturgies are in use in different portions of the Church, the Synod has adopted the following resolutions :

1.) *Resolved*, That this Synod feels the necessity of a Liturgy that can be brought into general use throughout the entire Church, so as to secure uniformity of worship.

2.) *Resolved*, That this Synod is opposed to the continued use of the Provisional Liturgy, as such, and would request the General Synod so to modify it as to enable us to introduce it into our congregations.

3.) *Resolved*, That should the Provisional Liturgy not admit of such modification, the General Synod be earnestly requested to take measures at once to provide a Liturgy adapted to the wants of the Church.

4.) *Resolved*, That, in case the General Synod does not feel prepared to act in this matter, it be requested to allow us to provide a Liturgy which, in our opinion, will be adapted to the wants of our Church, and that a committee of five be appointed to go forward in this work, should the contingency arise.

Respectfully submitted,
SAMUEL R. FISHER, *Chairman.*

The report was taken up item by item, and disposed of as follows :

Item 1. This item was referred to a special Committee, consisting of Rev. Dr. B. S. Schneck, G. W. Williard, G. B. Russell, E. Keller, Dr. J. H. A. Bomberger, H. J. Ruetenik and Dr. J. Bossard, and Elders G. S. Griffith and Dr. S. B. Kieffer.

Item 2. The report of the Committee called for in this item was submitted for the consideration of Synod. It was received, but after discussing the first resolution, it was recommitted; and the Rev. J. H. Klein and J. H. Derr were appointed to co-operate with said committee.

Synod adjourned until 2 o'clock, P. M. Closed with the benediction by Rev. Dr. D. Zacharias.



FRIDAY, November 20th, 2 o'clock, P. M.

Synod met, and was opened with singing and prayer by Rev. H. S. Bassler.

On motion, the Rev. T. J. Barkley, J. I. Swander, and W. E. Krebs were appointed as additional reporters for the Daily Papers of the city of Pittsburg.

The report on Minutes of the Synods under consideration at adjournment, was continued.

Item 3. In reference to the contents of this item, it was, on motion,

Resolved, That the General Synod gratefully receives this donation of five hundred dollars from Rev. Dr. P. Schaff.

Resolved, That the proceeds of this fund be devoted to the diffusion of German Sunday School literature of the Reformed Church.

Item 4. Laid on the table until the report of the Committee, as to How Synod holds its church property, be received.

Item 5 This was referred to a special Committee, consisting of Rev. P. C. Prugh, W. F. Colliflower, I. H. Reiter and F. W. Kremer, and Elders Geo. Heilman and A. H. Baughman.

Item 6. Referred to a special Committee, consisting of Rev. J. H. Derr, Dr. J. W. Nevin, Dr. M. Kieffer and J. S. Foulk, and Elders J. Rodenmayer and J. Weist.

Item 7. Referred to a special Committee, consisting of Rev. Dr. J. H. A. Bomberger, F. W. Kremer, I. S. Demund, G. W. Williard, E. E. Higbee and Dr. M. Kieffer, and Elders A. B. Wingerd and T. W. Chapman.

Item 8. Referred to a special Committee, consisting of Rev. G. W. Williard, Dr. J. Bossard, T. G. Apple and G. B. Russell, and Elders Dr. S. B. Kieffer and T. W. Chapman.

Hereupon, the report as a whole was adopted.

The presence of Rev. W. A. Passavant, of the Lutheran Church, was announced.

The Committee on the subject of Orphan Asylums again submitted their report, which was received. The first resolution was taken up and discussed, and pending this, the Synod adjourned. Prayer by the Rev. J. S. Foulk.

On Friday evening the Historical Society of the German Reformed Chnreh, originating in the Tercentenary Convention at Philadelphia, in January, and organized Oct. 22d, 1863, at Carlisle, Pa., held an adjourned meeting, which, having been opened with religious exercises, was entertained with an able and interesting address by Rev. Dr. H. Harbaugh, who briefly dwelt on the several epochs into which the history of the Church in America may be divided, and pointed out the particular sources from which this history may be gleaned. Some business was transacted, having reference to the more perfect organization of the Society and its future success. The meeting was possessed of interest, and also of profit.

SATURDAY, Nov. 21st, 9 o'clock, A. M.

Synod met. Singing and prayer by Elder G. S. Griffith. A quorum present. The Minutes were read and adopted.

Rev F. K. Levan, delegate *primarius* from Westmoreland Classis, appeared and was admitted to the seat occupied by the *secundus*, Rev. D. H. Reiter.

Elder Hugh Moore, delegate from Westmoreland Classis, appeared and took his seat.

The regular order of business, relating to the establishment of Orphan Asylums, was again resumed. A substitute was offered and entertained, but finally rejected. Thereupon, after considerable discussion pertaining to the manner of controlling and sustaining such institutions, the report was again re-committed, and the Committee instructed to make certain modifications.

The presence of the Rev. Dr. Williams, of the Presbyterian Church, was announced.

The Rev. L. K. Derr and Elder Stephen Ringer, delegates from East Pennsylvania Classis, were excused from further attendance at Synod after this morning session.

Synod adjourned until 2 o'clock, P. M. Closed with prayer by Rev. Dr. Williams.

SATURDAY, Nov. 21st. 2 o'clock, P. M.

Synod met, and was opened with singing and prayer by Rev. W. K. Zeiber.

Synod proceeded to fix the place and time for its next regular meeting, but before taking definite action, this matter was laid over and made the special order of the day for Monday at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The Rev. Dr. B. S. Schneck was excused from the duty assigned him in the Tercentenary Anniversary exercises this evening, and the name of Rev. J. Kuelling was substituted.

The Committee on Overtures submitted their report, which was received and adopted.

Your Committee on Overtures would respectfully report, that but two documents were placed in their hands:

No. 1. Is a letter from _____ to the General Synod, on the subject of ministerial conscription.

No. 2. Is a communication from Messrs. Griffith, Hays and McJilton, in behalf of the U. S. Christian Commission of the District of Maryland, stating their great need of funds for the supply of Hospital stores, blankets &c., for the sick and wounded soldiers and sailors of the Hospitals; and asking the Clergy to take up collections in aid of these objects on Thanksgiving Day.

Respectfully submitted,

D. WINTERS, *Chairman.*

This report was disposed of thus :

Item 1. With reference to this, it was,

Resolved, That the subject involved is of such a nature as to be inexpedient to engage the attention of Synod.

Item. 2. This item was approved by the adoption of the following resolution :

Resolved, That we heartily approve of the cause of the Christian Commission in the United States, and that it be hereby recommended to the pastors of all our Churches to lift collections on Thanksgiving Day, or as soon after as expedient, for this noble enterprize, and forward the amounts collected, to the Room of the Christian Commission, No. 77, West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, Md., or to any other Committee connected with the Christian Commission.

The Synod, in order to give place to the services preparatory to the Lord's Supper, after being in session one hour, adjourned to meet on Monday morning at 9 o'clock. Doxology and the benediction by Rev. J. O. Miller.

SATURDAY Evening, Nov. 21st, 7 o'clock.

The special exercises, assigned to this evening by Synod, relating to the synodical commemoration of the Tercentenary Anniversary of the formation and adoption of the Heidelberg Catechism, were observed in accordance with the order proposed in the report of the Committee, except that Rev. Dr. Gerhart, in consequence of necessary absence, did not fill the duty assigned him. Deep interest in, and ardent devotion to, the doctrines of our venerable Symbol of Faith, were practically manifested ; while its honorable origin, and its trials and triumphs were called into grateful and happy remembrance. The occasion was one of happy memories, of instructive entertainment, of spiritual edification, and of joyous commingling of hearts !

SUNDAY.—*The Lord's Supper.*

According to adopted arrangements, the congregation of Grace church, after appropriate divine services, celebrated the Lord's Supper at 10 $\frac{1}{2}$, A. M. In the evening, which had been specially set apart for this purpose, the members of Synod, as the representatives of all the different sections of the entire German Reformed Church in the United States, and now for the first time assembled in the capacity of its highest Judicatory and of Ecclesiastical Union, unitedly approached the sacramental altar and participated in the communion of the Lord's Supper, and thus vitally and practically confirmed the scriptu-

ral declaration, that "we, being many, are one body in Christ, and members one of another." What could have been more appropriate, hallowed and significant! The sermon on this occasion was preached by Rev. Dr. H. Harbaugh. The occasion was not only one of interest and edification, but premonitory of the future unity, oneness, devotion and prosperity of the Reformed Church.

The pulpits of sister churches in the city of Pittsburg and of Allegheny, by special request, and in accordance with appointment, were also filled, both morning and evening, by members of Synod.

MONDAY, Nov. 23d, 9 o'clock, A. M.

Synod met, and was opened with singing and prayer by Rev. J. C. Bucher. Roll called. A quorum present. The Minutes of Saturday were read, amended and approved.

Elder John Meily, delegate *primarius* from Lebanon Classis, appeared and took his seat.

Rev. Henry W. Super, and Elders Abraham Beam and Josiah Miller, from the Classis of Westmoreland, appeared and took their seats as advisory members.

Rev. Wm. Goodrich, delegate from East Susquehanna Classis, was excused in consequence of sickness from further attendance on the sessions of Synod.

The Committee on the general subject of Orphan Asylums again submitted their report. The report was received, and, after a brief discussion and some slight amendments, adopted. It is as follows:

One of the chief blessings left to the inheritance of the body of believers by their Divine Head, the Lord Jesus, is the perpetual presence in the Church of the poor. The Holy Scriptures are verified in His word that: The poor ye have always. But doubtless chief among the poor is that class known as orphans. To the sacred care of the Church, the true mother of us all, are these left, by Him, who has declared Himself to be the Father of the fatherless, and whose holy religion, pure and undefiled, visits the fatherless and widows in their affliction.

The true Church can never be unmindful of this holy trust; and hence, we find, in all ages, living Christianity making due account of this precious legacy. As a true mother bestows the tenderest care upon the weakest of her household; even so the Church makes it a specially binding duty to provide, with real maternal love, for the orphan, as one of the least of Christ's own; to whom, if received in His name, the giving of a cup of

cold water is by no means unrewarded. And lest the bleak world of sin should cause "one of these little ones to offend," they are to be taken into a more safe retreat, such as is of gracious right theirs, in the nurture of a Christian family. While then the State, in the order of the natural and human, creates and maintains Orphan Asylums only, the Church, warmed by the love of Jesus Christ, provides orphans that are homeless, with the gracious atmosphere and surroundings of a truly Christian household; where the solitary may be set in families, as in the Christian Orphan's Home.

This great truth of practical Christianity has come to be felt for some time, in the general consciousness of our beloved Zion—as expressed in the action of the several Classes and Synods. It is therefore no longer an open question, whether or not, we *ought to have* such institutions in the Reformed Church of this country. The only unsettled question all along would seem to have been: Whether, with all our other necessary out-lay of effort, with our few men, and small means, we could now come to assume formally and in good faith heartily, this great duty, as scripturally also included in the "every good word and work" of the Church.

Many and great hindrances, it was thought, have hitherto stood in the way of this—nearly all of these however resting back in the peculiar circumstances of our early history in this country. But these have all been doubtless so nearly overcome, that it is now high time to awake out of sleep and begin in earnest faith and hope, this great part also of our work.

An additional incentive, if one were needed to urge us to this duty, is at hand in the mournful fact: that in these times of our national troubles and terrible scourgings by war and rebellion, the number of orphans is fearfully increased—and is yet more increasing.

Now too, that in this Tercentenary Jubilee of our Reformed Church, the Lord, our Saviour, has put it into the hearts of some of our people to contribute liberally towards the special funds necessary to found, establish and successfully carry on, such a scheme of Christian benevolence; we think the fit time has fully come for this, our first General Synod, to take such official action as will not only sanction by its authority, but will also more fully draw out and give direction to, the spontaneous movements of the membership of the Church in behalf of this very worthy cause, the care of the orphan.

We may be further encouraged to take this action, because the material means for starting such institutions need not at first be very great. Indeed the beginnings of most such things had best be very small. Regard, in the way of true faith, ought first of all, to be had, for the sustaining of them, to the hand of Him who feeds the young ravens when they cry, and who is more ready to give, than his servants are to ask of Him.

Most surely will the Lord provide the Orphan's Home with its daily bread.

Then with the means furnished by liberal hearts, a small farm could be secured for each such Home; from the proceeds of which, with the labor of the larger grown inmates, these economical establishments could be in large part self-sustaining. The necessary industry of the Homes might also, to some extent, engage in the mechanic arts; but in no case, however, should the labor be carried to an extent for money making beyond that of mere incidental contribution towards self-support. And even a large endowment fund, would perhaps not be as desirable, all things considered, as the continued small gifts, flowing from the living charities of the Church from year to year—for thus itself cultivated and twice blessed, it would be realized, that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

In view of these brief considerations, and others which might be given in a more extended report, the following resolutions are therefore proposed for the favorable action of this body:

Resolved, That the General Synod of the Reformed Church, in the fear of God, and relying on His guidance and the divine blessing, hereby solemnly engages to enter upon the duty of more systematically providing Christian Homes, for the poor orphan children that may be left by His providence to our care.

Resolved, That the general supervision and management of this whole interest be, and is hereby, committed to a General Board of Directors, consisting of five members, two of whom shall be elected at each regular meeting of the General Synod. They shall be a corporate body, and as such shall hold in trust sacredly, all funds and other property set apart for such use; and shall furnish to each regular meeting of the General Synod a full report of their trust.

Resolved, That in case the Church, for instance in a particular city, or an association of individual members, or one Classis or more, or a Synod, organize and establish a local Orphan's Home, it shall stand in auxiliary relation to the General Board, to whom, it shall annually submit a report of its operations; but such branch institutions shall nevertheless be under the immediate management, in all respects as to their particular affairs internally, of their own local Board, appointed by the interests represented in such Home, and who shall receive and use donations made to the same and to which the General Board of Directors may make grants from the General Orphan's Home Fund, and shall appropriate all the proceeds of such special gifts which may be made in favor of such particular Home.

Resolved, That whatever be the varied internal regulations

of these branch Homes, the general form of their government shall always be based on the idea of the "Christian Family," under the nurturing life of the Reformed Church, as that flows from the true faith taught in the Heidelberg Catechism.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. B. RUSSELL, *Chairman.*

In this connection, and by way of corroboration and recommendation, the following resolutions were adopted :

Resolved, That the subject matter of providing *Homes* for the poor and destitute of our Church, be brought to the notice of the several Classes, and by them to the respective consistories of each congregation, with the view of more fully enforcing the duties devolving upon the Deacons of the German Reformed Church.

Resolved, That the Board of Directors of the Orphan Home shall consist of two ministers and three laymen.

Resolved, That a Committee of three be appointed to propose a double number of names, from which Synod shall elect the required number of Directors for the Orphan Home.

This committee consists of Rev. Dr. H. Harbaugh, and H. Williard, and Elder D. Zeller. This Committee subsequently submitted their report, which was received and adopted. The election was then held, and resulted in the choice of Rev. John W. Nevin, D. D., and Geo. B. Russell, and Elders Charles Santee, G. S. Griffith and Wm. E. Schmertz.

The Committee on the subject as to How the Synod holds its church property, submitted their report, which was received and adopted :

The Committee appointed by the Eastern Synod to report to the General Synod on the subject of Church property, beg leave respectfully to report :

That they have not as yet had time to have a formal meeting, nor yet given the subject the consideration which its importance demands. They, therefore, would ask, that this Synod would formally recognize this Committee as its own and continue it, with authority to submit a report on this subject to the Particular Synods, at their next annual meetings, and also to the General Synod at its next regular meeting, for their consideration and adoption. And in the meantime this General Synod instruct the churches or congregations within our entire limits, to carefully avoid in their titles, charters, deeds, and use of their property, anything that may endanger such Church property.

Respectfully submitted,

J. O. MILLER, *Chairman.*

Thereupon, in accordance with the spirit and the recommendation contained in the foregoing report, it was,

Resolved, That the Committee of the Eastern Synod on the subject of Church property be appointed the Committee of this General Synod, and that this Committee be requested to mature an item with respect to the legal titles of our Church property, and report to the Particular Synods at their next annual meetings.

The regular order of the day for eleven o'clock, the fixing of the place and time for the next meeting of the General Synod, was taken up. The places proposed were Philadelphia, Baltimore, Buffalo, Cincinnati and Dayton.

The Synod then proceeded to vote for the place and time of holding its next triennial meeting, and the result was, that the first German Reformed Church of Dayton, Ohio, was chosen as the place, and the Wednesday before Advent Sunday, November 28th, 1866, in the evening at 7 o'clock, was fixed as the time.

The Committee on Missions submitted their report. The report was received, amended, taken up item by item, and finally adopted as a whole.

The Committee on Missions beg leave to present the following report:

In the Constitution it is expressly stated, that to the General Synod "shall belong the management of the Foreign Missions of the Church." The following action is therefore recommended:

Resolved, That the Board of Foreign Missions, as recently constituted by the Synod at Carlisle, be and is hereby constituted the Board of this General Synod.

Resolved, That this Board be enlarged by three ministers and two Elders from the Western Synod.

Resolved, That as a testimony of our gratitude to the Great Head of the Church for the revival of pure and undefiled religion among those, who have since lost in a great measure the form, as well as the power of vital godliness, and as an appreciation of the services of our Missionary—Rev. B. Schneider, D. D., we recommend to all our ministers, that they spread before their people the Lord's marvelous doings as an encouragement and incentive to more earnest prayer, and greater liberality for sustaining and enlarging our Missionary operations in that land, once consecrated by the labors of Apostles and the blood of Martyrs.

While the Constitution provides for the management of the Foreign Missions of the Church by the General Synod, it says nothing about its Home Missionary operations. We do not re-

gard this silence as designed or intended to leave these in the hands of the Eastern and Western Synods, but simply leaving it open for this body to act as in its wisdom may be most subservient to the great and vital interests involved. To secure greater unity and efficiency, it would certainly be desirable, if a satisfactory arrangement can be made, that one Board should have the control and management of the Home Missions of the Church. At a conference of the members of the two Boards present at this Synod, this whole subject was discussed, and your Committee was requested to present the following expression of their wishes and feelings in the case. These resolutions are herewith submitted for the action of this body.

Resolved, That we recommend to Synod the propriety of organizing a Home Missionary Board, with instructions to perfect a plan of operations adapted to the present necessities of the missionary work—this Board to commence its operations as soon as the Boards now existing shall have been dissolved by their respective Synods.

Resolved, That we further recommend to Synod that the Secretary of this new Board be constituted a travelling agent and general superintendent, and that his whole time be devoted to the work of Missions, and that he receive for such services a competent salary.

Resolved, That a Missionary Meeting under the direction of the President in the chair, be held in Grace Church to night for which four speakers have been appointed—Rev. Dr. J. H. A. Bomberger, G. W. Williard, P. C. Prugh and J. H. Klein in the German language, and that a collection for Home Missions be taken up.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN S. FOULK, *Chairman.*

The election of five additional members of the Board of Foreign Missions from the Western Synod, in accordance with the second resolution of the foregoing report, was made the special order of the day for to-morrow morning at ten o'clock.

Synod adjourned. Prayer by Rev. J. Rebaugh.

MONDAY, Nov. 23, 2 o'clock, P. M.

Synod met. Singing and prayer by Rev. I. S. Demund. The roll was called, and a quorum found present.

Elder H. C. Hoover, delegate from Philadelphia Classis, appeared and took his seat.

Rev. H. Wiegandt, delegate *secundus* from the West Susquehanna Classis, appeared and was admitted to the seat of Rev.

L. C. Edmonds, who was excused from further attendance on the sessions of Synod.

Rev. J. Kuelling, delegate from the Maryland Classis, in consequence of illness, was excused from further attendance on the sessions of Synod.

Rev. I. S. Demund was granted leave of absence for this afternoon.

Rev. L. H. Kefauver, from the Tiffin Classis, appeared and took his seat as an advisory member.

The special Committee, to whom was referred the first item in the report of the Committee on the Minutes of the Synods, in regard to the organization of a Sunday School Association, submitted their report, which was received, and taken up item by item. But, after consuming the most of the afternoon session in discussion, the report was finally recommitted.

Synod adjourned to meet this evening at 7 o'clock. Prayer by Rev. W. E. Krebs.

MONDAY Evening, Nov. 23d, 7 o'clock.

Synod met, and opened with prayer by Elder H. Leonard, Rev. James Reinhart, delegate *secundus* from St John's Classis, appeared and took his seat.

The Missionary Festival, in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee on Missions, was observed this evening in the order proposed. The exercises were possessed of interest and instruction, tending to inspire self-denying zeal and activity in the all-important cause of Missions.

On motion,

Resolved, That the taking up of a collection for Missions, as proposed in the report, be dispensed with.

Resolved, That the Synod now adjourn to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock, and that the first half-hour after meeting be spent in devotional exercises.

Closed with singing and prayer by the Rev. J. B. Kneist.

TUESDAY, Nov. 24th, 9 o'clock, A. M.

Pursuant to adjournment, the Synod met, and spent a half hour in devotional exercises, to the spiritual edification and enjoyment of the members.

The roll was then called, and a quorum found present. The Minutes were read and approved.

Rev. Henry M. Herman, delegate from Miami Classis, Rev. Dr. James Bossard, delegate from Sheboygan Classis, and Elder M. Zimmerman, delegate from Westmoreland Classis, were excused from further attendance on the sessions of Synod.

The order of the day for 10 o'clock, being the election of five additional members of the Board of Foreign Missions from the Western Synod, was taken up, and, on taking the vote, resulted in the choice of Rev. G. W. Williard, P. C. Prugh, D. Winters and Elders A. H. Baughman and G. G. Prugh.

On motion,

Resolved, That the Board of Home Missions of the General Synod shall consist of twelve members, of whom two-thirds shall be ministers.

Resolved, That a Committee, consisting of Rev. G. W. Williard and F. W. Kremer, be appointed to nominate the persons who shall constitute the Board required in the foregoing resolution.

This Committee subsequently submitted their report, which was received and adopted, and resulted in constituting the Board of Home Missions of the following persons: Rev. J. H. A. Bomberger, D. D., S. H. Giesy, N. Gehr, J. G. Wiehle, D. Winters, P. C. Prugh, G. W. Williard, J. Lichtenstein, and Elders C. Santee, J. Wiest, A. H. Baughman and G. G. Prugh.

On motion,

Resolved, That the Synods be requested to send down the following propositions to the several Classes for their adoption or rejection, namely:

1. That the last clause of the 78th Article of the Constitution be so changed as to read: "Twenty-four delegates from a majority of the Classes, representing a majority of the Synods, of whom at least one third shall be Elders, shall constitute a quorum to transact business."

2. That the second clause of Article 70th of the Constitution be so amended as to read: "Its missionary operations shall be conducted by Boards specially appointed for the purpose by the General Synod;" and that the third clause of the same Article be so amended as to read: "These Boards shall be subject to the control of the General Synod, and shall each submit to it, at its regular meetings, a faithful report of its transactions, and the state of the interest committed to its care."

2. That the words "Home and," be inserted before the words, "Foreign Missions of the Church," at the close of the last clause of the 83d Article of the Constitution.

Resolved, That the Constitution of our Church, when published in the English language with the proposed amendments, shall be translated by a competent person into the German language, making it conform more fully in form and spirit with the character of such an instrument.

The special Committee appointed on item 5 of the Minutes of the Synods, submitted their report, which was received, and laid on the table until the Committee on the subject of a Sunday School Association report.

The Committee on the consolidation of the Theological Seminaries of the German Reformed Church, submitted their report, which was received, and, after some discussion, adopted.

The Committee on the consolidation of the Theological Seminaries beg leave to report:

That, although on some accounts such a union of the two Institutions may seem desirable, they deem it inexpedient to agitate the subject of such a consolidation at the present time.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. A. BOMBERGER, *Chairman.*

Elder Peter Loose, delegate from the St. Joseph Classis, in consequence of sickness in his family, was excused from further attendance on the sessions of Synod.

Synod adjourned until 2 o'clock, P. M. Closed with the Benediction by the President.

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TUESDAY, Nov. 24th, 2 o'clock, P. M.

Synod met. Prayer by Rev. Fred. C. Bauman. A quorum present.

Rev. F. Strassner, from the East Pennsylvania Classis, appeared and took his seat as an advisory member.

Elder David Zeller, delegate from Maryland Classis, and Elder Geo. Heilman, delegate from Lebanon Classis, were excused from further attendance on the sessions of Synod.

The Committee on the subject of a Sunday School Association again submitted their report. The report was received, amended and adopted.

The Committee on the subject of Sunday Schools beg leave to submit the following as their report:

In their opinion the deficiencies complained of in the minute referred to them from the Eastern Synod, in reference to the loose and, in some cases, independent relations of Sunday Schools to the congregation, as well as the deficiencies in the manner in which many of the Schools are conducted, can be best reached through the various Classes, by requiring pastors and consistories to remedy the evils complained of. In regard to an improvement in the character of some of the books used in Sunday Schools, we believe the most practicable way to

attain this object will be, by appointing a Board to whom this whole subject shall be committed.

The Committee therefore recommended the adoption of the following resolutions :

Resolved, That the different Classes throughout the Church be earnestly requested to see to it, that the Sunday Schools of the Church be conducted in accordance with sound Christian principles and the order of our Church, and that the pastors in their parochial reports be required to state the position and character of the Sunday Schools under their care in these particular features.

Resolved, That a *Sunday School Board* of eight members be appointed by this Synod, to whom this subject shall be entrusted. They shall prepare a Constitution for their government, to be approved by the General Synod, and among other things, provide for the appointment of an Executive Committee of five members, to whom all books designed for general use shall be submitted for examination. No book shall be published without the unanimous approval of the Committee.

Provided, however, that nothing in this arrangement and action shall be so construed as to limit or interfere with the publication operations of either of the Synods.

Resolved, That the Board shall render a report at every meeting of the General Synod, embracing, as far as may be possible, the number, character and condition of Sunday Schools throughout our Church, the number and character of the books used, and such other information as may have bearing on the subject.

Resolved, That the proceeds of the donation of five hundred dollars by Dr. Schaff to this Synod, and which by its resolution has been appropriated for German Sunday School publications, be placed at the disposal of the above Board of Sunday Schools.

Respectfully submitted,

B. S. SCHNECK, *Chairman*.

A Committee, consisting of Rev. P. C. Prugh, Dr. E. V. Gerhart and J. Riale, and Elders H. Leonard and J. Wiest, was appointed to put in nomination the requisite number of names, to constitute the Board of the Sunday School Association. This Committee subsequently submitted their report, which was received, and adopted; and, as such, resulted in the choice of Rev. Dr. J. H. A. Bomberger, Dr. E. V. Gerhart, S. H. Giesy, B. Bausman, G. W. Williard and P. C. Prugh, and Elders C. Santee and G. S. Griffith.

The report of the special Committee on Item 5 in the report on Synodical Minutes, having been laid on the table until after the reception and adoption of the report of the Committee on the subject of a Sunday School Association, was taken up, discussed and finally adopted.

The Committee to whom was referred Item 5 of the report on the Minutes of the Eastern Synod, would respectfully submit the following report :

After carefully considering the whole subject, they would recommend for adoption the resolution of said Synod, which declares : "That while according to the Constitution, the Heidelberg Catechism, alone, can be used in catechetical instruction, yet in Sunday Schools other Catechisms may be used, provided always they harmonize with our doctrinal symbol, and that the Heidelberg Catechism be brought into prominent use in all our Sunday Schools."

Respectfully submitted,

P. C. PRUGII, *Chairman.*

The Committee on the subject of the Liturgy submitted their report, which was received and considered. After considerable earnest discussion, a substitute was offered for the whole report. This substitute demanded the appointment of a committee, whose duty it should be to so revise and modify the "Provisional Liturgy," as to adapt it to the wants of the whole Church. On this form of the question, the greater part of the discussion of the whole subject was based. Pending this subject, the Synod adjourned to meet this evening at 7 o'clock. Prayer by Rev. T. P. Bucher.

TUESDAY Evening, November 24th, 7 o'clock.

The Synod met, and was opened with singing and prayer, by Rev. Dr. M. Kieffer.

The subject of the Liturgy, pending at adjournment, was resumed, and continued under discussion during the whole of the evening session, without arriving at any conclusive results.

Synod adjourned until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Benediction by the President.

WEDNESDAY, Nov. 25th, 9 o'clock, A. M.

Synod met. Prayer by Rev. J. McConnell. A quorum present. The Minutes were read, amended and approved.

The regular order of business, being the subject of the Liturgy, was laid on the table for the purpose of attending to incidental matters.

Elder P. W. Dumbauld, delegate from Lancaster Classis,

(O.,) was excused from further attendance on the sessions of Synod.

Rev. H. Daniel, delegate *secundus* from Clarion Classis, was admitted to the seat of Rev. F. Wise, delegate *primarius*, who was excused from further attendance on the sessions of Synod.

Hereupon, the regular order of business, which had been laid on the table, was again taken up for further consideration. An amendment to the substitute was now offered and entertained. This amendment directed the Committee, called for in the substitute, to make the revision of the "Provisional Liturgy" on the basis of the specific instructions originally and repeatedly given to the Liturgical Committee by the Eastern Synod.

At this stage of the proceedings, and while the amendment was under discussion, the Synod adjourned until 2 o'clock, P. M. Prayer by Rev. Dr. S. R. Fisher.

WEDNESDAY, Nov. 25th, 2 o'clock, P. M.

Synod met. Prayer by Rev. H. Koehler. A quorum present.

The regular order of business was again laid on the table, in order to attend to the excusing of the following named brethren from further attendance on the sessions of Synod, viz: Rev. I. S. Demund, delegate from Lancaster Classis (Pa.), Rev. S. Hess and Elder D. B. Mauger from Goshenhoppen Classis, Rev. S. Mease from Miami Classis, Rev. C. Cast from St. Joseph Classis, Rev. Dr. B. S. Schneck from Mercersburg Classis, and Elder J. Meily from Lebanon Classis.

The regular order of business, being the subject of the Liturgy, was resumed, and after some further discussion, the amendment to the substitute was voted upon, and carried.

The substitute, as amended, was then considered and discussed, and finally voted down.

The original report, as submitted by the Committee, was thereupon again taken into consideration, slightly amended, and finally adopted.

The Committee on the subject of the Liturgy, as referred to this Synod by the Synod of Ohio and adjacent States, would respectfully report:

That they have given the subject the attention and consideration, which its importance demands. They find the subject encumbered, with many difficulties, in view of the diversity of sentiment in reference to the liturgical question. In the opinion of a majority of the Committee, it is thought that should a modification of the Provisional Liturgy be pressed upon the

Synod at the present time, there might be as much opposition to such modifications in certain portions of the Church, as there is now against the Liturgy in its present form, so that we would have as much diversity as now exists. Hence the Committee would recommend the following action:

Resolved, That the request of the Synod of Ohio and adjacent States be granted, namely, that they be allowed to prepare a Liturgy which in their judgment may be better adapted to the wants of the Church.

And whereas the Eastern Synod has also been engaged for a number of years in preparing a Liturgy adapted to the wants of the Church, and their work has not yet been finally revised, therefore,

Resolved, That it be recommended to the Eastern Synod to go forward in the work of revising its Liturgy according to its own judgment, so that the General Synod may have before it also the Liturgy of the Eastern Synod in its complete form, in which they may desire it finally to appear, with a view to final action on the whole subject.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. W. WILLIARD, *Chairman.*

The Committee on Correspondence with Sister Churches, submitted their report, which was received, amended and adopted.

The Committee on Correspondence with Sister Churches, beg leave to report:

That it seems most appropriate that our denominational correspondence should be maintained by this Synod, rather than by the territorial or particular Synods, inasmuch as we represent the entire German Reformed Church. We, therefore, recommend that terms of correspondence be proposed to the following evangelical Church bodies, and as a substitute for that now maintained by the Eastern and Western Synods:

1. With the General Synod of the Lutheran Church.
2. With the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church.
3. With the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, N. S.
4. With the Triennial Synod of the Moravian Church.
5. With the Evangelical Church Union of the West.

It is not designed, however, that this action shall be any obstacle in the way of each Synod, belonging to this body, opening special correspondence with any other Ecclesiastical Body.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. A. BOMBERGER, *Chairman.*

In accordance with the design of the foregoing report, a committee, consisting of Rev. Dr. M. Kieffer, Dr. E. V. Ger-

hart, J. C. Bucher and J. H. Klein, and Elders D. S. Arnold and H. Leonard, were appointed to report a double number of names, from which to elect the proposed Delegates. This Committee subsequently submitted their report, which was received and adopted, and resulted in the election of the following persons :

General Synod of the Lutheran Church.

Rev. B. Bausman, *primarius*, and Rev. M. Kieffer, D. D., *secundus*.

Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church.

Rev. E. V. Gerhart, D. D., *primarius*, and Rev. S. H. Giesy, *secundus*.

General Synod of the Presbyterian Church, N. S.

Rev. D. Winters, *primarius*, and Rev. S. R. Fisher, D. D., *secundus*.

Triennial Synod of the Moravian Church.

Rev. N. Gehr, *primarius*, and Rev. M. Stern, *secundus*.

Evangelical Church Union of the West.

Rev. H. J. Rütenik, *primarius*, and Rev. Dr. J. Bossard, *secundus*.

On motion,

Resolved, That a Committee of three ministers be appointed to open a regular correspondence with the Reformed Pastoral Conference of Switzerland, and with the Reformed Conference of Detmold, Germany. This Committee consists of Rev. John S. Kessler, D. D., Rev. Prof. Herman Rust and Rev. Benjamin S. Schneck, D. D.

On motion,

Resolved, That it be made a Standing Rule, hereafter, in the election of the different Boards of the General Synod, to put in nomination a double number of names.

The Rev. F. W. Kremer, delegate from the Lebanon Classis, Rev. S. Philips and Elder Dr. S. B. Kieffer, from Zion's Classis, were excused from attending the sessions of Synod after adjournment.

Synod adjourned until this evening at 7 o'clock. Benediction by the President.

WEDNESDAY Evening, Nov. 25th, 7 o'clock.

Synod met, and was opened with singing and prayer by Rev. I. H. Reiter. A quorum present.

The transaction of business was resumed, and a variety of matters claimed the attention of Synod, during the final session.

On motion, respecting the change of the name of our Church, from German Reformed to simply *Reformed*, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS, the original title of our Church was simply Reformed; and, whereas, the distinctive title of "German" affixed to the name of our Church in America has proven itself a hindrance to the success of our missionary operations in large cities and in the West—Therefore,

Resolved, That this Synod regards it as highly expedient and important to the future history and success of our Church, that we resume the original title *Reformed*.

Resolved, That this subject be referred to the several Classes at their next annual meetings, with the request that they acquiesce in the erasure of the word "German," and a return to the original distinctive name *Reformed*.

Resolved, That this Synod call the attention of the Committee on church property to this proposed change of name, and request them to give an opinion to the Classes by the time of their next annual meetings, whether such a change will effect our titles, bonds and invested funds.

Resolved, That the several Classes of both the Eastern and Western Synods, are requested to report their action to their respective Synods.

The Committee on the State of the Church submitted their report. The report was received, amended and adopted.

Rev. Fathers and Brethren of the General Synod of the Reformed Church:

Standing as we now do, on the threshold of a new era in the history of our Reformed Zion, we are called in this auspicious epoch to record, though it be necessarily in most imperfect summary, the general state of our Church. Our three hundred years of Protestant history joins us in the living communion of the Holy Catholic Church, with the godly fellowship of the Apostles, the glorious company of martyrs and saints of all ages. And so, the ever present life of our blessed Redeemer, according to His eternal word of promise, becomes for our faith a glorious assurance, that our work, as well as that of our fathers, shall not be in vain in the Lord; and continuing with us also as a part of his mystical body, we thus bear his grace and salvation in the Gospel, to our ruined race. We note the following things:

I. *Healthy life*, as doubtless at the present time, the most striking characteristic of the Reformed Church. Without attempting to compare with what others are, the condition of our Church, we may safely compare her present with what was formerly her state. What we now are, is of course conditioned by what we have been. Whatever may have been

the case at any previous period, certainly now in all essential points, we find the Church of the Heidelberg Catechism in this country imbued with sound healthy life.

Her sufferings and trials of the past may have somewhat marred her beauty, and so sorely tried her strength as to largely absorb her efforts, and thus leave much of her work undone; yet from all these tribulations she has finally come forth as a bride leaning on the arm of her Beloved.

Rationalism and Romanism have alike failed to corrupt her; schism has in vain tried to rend her into fragmentary sects; and the leaven of foreign heretical spirits has not been able to leaven the whole lump, either as to creed or customs bequeathed to us by the fathers. But these foreign elements have themselves been condemned and, by the gracious leadings of the Holy Spirit, well nigh purged out.

Bearing the cross through evil as well as through good report, the Reformed Church to-day stands, as it must be evident to all who take the trouble to learn what she now is, full of her own peculiar life. And that life seems also to be strong and healthy. She has power to feel herself in the exercise of her normal activities. The vitalizing power of the Spirit of Christ informs and pervades her whole order of sacred rites and ordinances, as at one with the word and saeraments. No galvanized merely human stimulants are needed to move her heavenly powers; for the life that is in the vine gives life to all the branches.

Self-conscious of this healthy state, she knows where to maintain her stand, and seeks more firmly to be settled and established in the faith of all Christendom on the foundation of the Apostles and prophets—and on Jesus Christ Himself, the chief cornerstone. Built up in Christian nurture, her educational system trains to a knowledge of the true God, and Jesus Christ, whom He has sent; which is eternal life.

This life has evidenced itself in a true revival, in both doctrine and devotions, not consisting in making anything new—but rather a re-inspiriting of what was already at hand in her constituted powers, and return to her doctrines, her worship, her history and her holy offices. Others, whatever be their excellencies, reveal, we think, nothing equal to this true revival of zeal and piety in the Reformed Church, in behalf of the Catholic faith and ecumenical Church history. The last score of years, the Reformed Church, small and despised as she was among the other tribes of God's Israel, was well nigh alone in her efforts to stem the tide of practical heresies, and bring again into firm and hearty use, the old creeds, old customs and old worship—not only of the Reformation as that held three hundred years ago, but back also to the beginning of Christianity itself.

It required not only strong and active life, but also the power

of faith resting on the ground and pillar of the truth, to endure what the Reformed Church suffered, in maintaining her existence in her peculiar life, customs and rites, and cultivating also a proper sense of self-respect. And now, at this first meeting of the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America, we find her life revealing itself in the blooming flower, brought forth in our Tercentenary Jubilee, fragrant with the perfumed memories of our fathers, the aroma of their piety, and the sweet odors of their devotion.

II. Active and Vigorous Growth is another mark belonging to the Reformed Church at the present time, as the result of this healthy life.

Growth in grace is a privilege and duty of the whole body of Christ; and, if we trace the workings of the Reformed Church, we will find this life making progress in vigorous activity.

The Church of the Heidelberg Catechism has been growing steadily into a consciousness of what is comprehended in her system of Doctrine. Seeking out the old paths, she strikes her roots deeper, and plants herself more firmly on the true faith. It is refreshing to consider how much stronger she is, and how much more steadily she now maintains her position in faith and charity, than was the case at the end of the first quarter of the present century.

Not only does her growth, however, give signs of doctrinal self-consciousness, but also as a consequence of practical piety, of zeal and of love. The presence of the Holy Ghost working by the Gospel through the word and sacraments, is sanctifying the Church, making more saintly her membership.

Thus we find this growing life awaking a greater zeal for the cause of missions, for beneficiary education and for our literary and theological institutions. All these kindred interests are now steadily, and, in comparison with the past, rapidly growing. No less is it true of the actual increase of the number of the ministry and the membership of the Church. Our Colleges and Seminaries graduate larger classes now than formerly.

Our people are also building larger and more churchly houses of worship; they are awaking to a sense of greater liberality, and are founding new institutions of Christian benevolence. Our missions are beginning to be established in long neglected places, and many hitherto destitute children of the Reformed Church are now supplied with the bread of life by their own spiritual mother. Our Church literature, though as yet small, just now promises to grow in bulk and variety; and has already contributed very decidedly to the value of American Theological science.

The present state of this vigorously growing life reveals, to

a considerable degree, our attainment to freedom, to unity, and to Christian love. *In dubiis libertas; in necessariis, unitas; in omnibus, charitas.*

We have now one General Synod, two district Synods, twenty-seven classes, in round numbers approximately about five hundred ministers, about twelve hundred congregations, about one hundred thousand baptized members yet unconfirmed, and about one hundred and thirty thousand confirmed members about one thousand Sunday Schools, two Theological Seminaries, one Mission House, four Colleges, besides quite a number of collegiate institutes and academies; seven religious papers, four of which are German, one monthly magazine, and now again, after two years suspension one Quarterly Review, a board of Home Missions, aboard of Foreign Missions; a Widows' Fund, and an Orphans' Home; and the amount collected during the year for her benevolent purposes will no doubt be considerably more than one hundred thousand dollars.

III. *Bright Promise* for the future, seems to be another noticeable feature in the present aspect of our beloved Reformed Church.

Who that has come to feel the intense life of Zion in this joyous festival year, in which the whole Church came together in the grand convention held in Philadelphia in January last, numbering more than five hundred delegates; which has called into living exercise the more enlarged church love of almost our entire membership; and which has now brought us together from the whole Church, except the two Classes of Virginia and North Carolina, in this first general assembly of our Triennial General Synod, whose sessions have been so full of oneness of spirit, in faith, in pious zeal, and in such sweet harmony and fraternal fellowship—who that has come to feel and see all this can fail to believe, that there is for the Reformed Church, a bright and most promising future.

Her genius and spirit, broad and Catholic, positive and irenic, firm and liberal, churchly and charitable—commends her to the future of our great land—and the world. There is nothing, circumscribed or *provincial* in her constitution, which limits her to any section, or class of people. Her present limits will now not necessarily be her future bounds. She has a *right* certainly, to go where she is not now known, and bring her “only comfort in life and death,” to the thousands who are willing to receive the truth of God at our hands.

Not only in the middle and central States, but in the east where the great activity of cultivated minds has exhausted itself in vain human speculations, and is now ready and longing, as was the old Greek world, to be taught positive divine truth, so as to satisfy truly, the human in the divine, has our Church a great mission for the future. And who shall esti-

mate her future in the great west, teeming with its growing millions, many of whom are fast tending to the blankest infidelity, if she will but enter in and occupy and subdue the land, to the rule of grace and righteousness? What too, may not be her mission also in the South, after the war, where many of the hitherto active Churches of our land will find it difficult, to say the least, to introduce and maintain their peculiar type of Christianity?

With our better endowed Colleges and Seminaries; with our enlarged new schemes of benevolence; with our increased and increasing ministry; with our multiplying membership; and with our growing christological literature, we may reasonably expect, if we be but faithful to our true life in its peculiar catholic heartsomeness, the fulfilment of much of this bright promise. But woe be to us, if we heed not our divine Master's call to enter heartily upon this our mission, our high and holy calling in Christ Jesus.

And now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Respectfully submitted,
GEO. B. RUSSELL, *Chairman.*

Rev. Dr. E. V. Gerhart, delegate from the Lancaster Classis, (Pa.,) Rev. W. B. Sandoe and Rev. J. M. Le Fever, from the Sandusky Classis, and Elder H. Ruby, from the Mercersburg Classis, were excused from further attendance on the sessions of Synod.

THE OPENING SERMON.

The Committee appointed to solicit a copy, and to superintend the publication, of the sermon preached before Synod at the opening of its sessions, by the Rev. Dr. J. W. Nevin, reported, that they had attended to the duty assigned them, and that they, having succeeded in securing a copy of the sermon, had 1,000 copies thereof printed in pamphlet form, which were now ready for distribution. The report was received and adopted, and the expenses involved were referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion,

Resolved, That the thanks of the Synod are hereby returned to the Rev. Dr. Nevin for his able and appropriate sermon, preached before this Ecclesiastical body, and that, as a token of our high regard, fifty copies of said sermon be presented to him.

Resolved, That three-fifths of the copies of the published sermon which remain unsold, be forwarded to the Publication Office, at Chambersburg, Pa., and two-fifths to the Rev. Geo. W. Williard, Dayton, O., on sale at these respective offices.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL SYNOD.

Resolved, That 1,500 copies of the Minutes of this General Synod, duly authenticated, be published in the English, and 1,000 in the German language; and that 900 copies of the English Minutes, and 600 of the German, be apportioned to the Eastern Synod, and 600 of the English and 400 of the German, to the Western Synod.

Resolved, That the Secretaries be authorized to superintend the publication of the Minutes of this General Synod.

Resolved, That a committee of three from each of the Synods be appointed to apportion the Minutes of the General Synod among the several Classes respectively.

This committee, on the part of the Eastern Synod, consists of Rev. Jacob O. Miller and John S. Foulk, and Elder John Rodenmayer; and, on the part of the Western Synod, of Rev. Geo. W. Williard and Isaac H. Reiter, and Elder Gideon G. Prugh.

These committees subsequently attended to the work assigned them, and presented the following reports:

The Committee of the Eastern Synod, on the apportionment of the Minutes, would submit the following as their report:

Classes.	Eng. Min.	Ger. Min.
East Pennsylvania, - - - - -	70	110
Lebanon, - - - - -	75	90
Zion's, - - - - -	110	60
Maryland, - - - - -	125	50
Philadelphia, - - - - -	65	35
Virginia, - - - - -	10	—
North Carolina, - - - - -	—	—
Mercersburg, - - - - -	125	50
Goshenhoppen, - - - - -	40	60
New York, - - - - -	5	30
Lancaster, - - - - -	100	20
East Susquehanna, - - - - -	55	25
West do. - - - - -	55	25
Clarion, - - - - -	35	25
St. Paul, - - - - -	30	20
	—	—
	900	600

Respectfully submitted,

JACOB O. MILLER, Chairman.

The Committee of the Western Synod, on the apportionment

of the Minutes, would hereby present the following report :

Classes.	Eng. Min.	Ger. Min.
Miami,	200	45
Lancaster,	90	20
Westmoreland,	95	35
Sandusky,	90	10
St. John's,	27	105
Tiffin,	30	85
St. Joseph,	20	30
Indiana,	10	25
Illinois,	20	10
Iowa,	18	5
Sheboygan,	—	30
	600	400

Respectfully submitted,
GEO. W. WILLIARD, *Chairman.*

Resolved, That the sum of thirty dollars be paid to each of the Secretaries for their services, by the Treasurer of the General Synod.

The Committee on Finance submitted their report, which was received, amended and adopted :

The Committee on Finance would respectfully report :

That, in the absence of all data, they have estimated the probable amount of the expenses of the General Synod, at five hundred dollars, including the cost of printing Rev. Dr. Nevins's sermon, which is seventy-nine dollars. And with reference to this amount, your Committee would recommend the following action :

Resolved, That of this amount of five hundred dollars, the sum of three hundred dollars be assessed on the Eastern Synod, and two hundred dollars on the Western Synod.

Resolved, That these sums, after having been apportioned by each of the Synods among the several Classes respectively, shall be paid into the Treasury of the General Synod without delay.

Respectfully submitted,
M. A. SMITH, *Chairman.*

The committee appointed to prepare a pastoral letter to the Church, submitted their report, which was received and adopted.

The Committee on a Pastoral Letter respectfully beg leave to report :

That they have not been able to agree on such a letter, and therefore ask to be discharged.

Respectfully submitted,
J. H. DERR, *Chairman.*

Thereupon the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That, in conformity with the admonition of the Holy Scriptures, and, in imitation of the example of our ecclesiastical fathers during the period of the Revolution, this Synod admonish the pastors and members of the churches under its care, to remember that the powers that be are ordained of God, and that it is the solemn duty of all Christians, enjoying the protection of such civil rulers, to pray for them, and that we should feel especially obligated to do so during a time of peril like that through which our beloved country is now passing.

OBJECTS OF TERCENTENARY OFFERINGS.

On motion,

Resolved, That this General Synod recommend to the Tercentenary Convention of the Eastern Synod, the *Waisenhaus zum Laemmerhirten* (the Lambs' Shepherd's Orphan Asylum), as an object worthy of a portion of the Tercentenary Offerings during this year; and whatever be contributed to this object be properly acknowledged as such.

Resolved, That the *Mission Institute* of Sheboygan Classis, (Wisconsin), be regarded as one of the general objects of the benevolence of the Church, and that it be recommended to favorable notice in the distribution of the Tercentenary Offerings.

VOTE OF THANKS.

Resolved, That this General Synod tenders its thanks to the Rev. Cyrus Cort, Geo. H. Johnston, Walter E. Krebs, Thomas J. Barkley, John I. Swander and Theo. P. Bueher, for their valuable and laborious services as reporters, in furnishing regular reports of its proceedings for the five daily papers of the city of Pittsburg.

Resolved, That we, as an Ecclesiastical body, return our thanks to the several Railroad Companies, having the roads, hereinafter named, under their control, for their kindness and liberality in permitting our delegates to pass over their roads at half fare, to wit: The Columbus and Steubenville, Allegheny Valley, Pennsylvania Central, Cumberland Valley, Northern Central, Lebanon Valley, and the East Pennsylvania Railroads.

Resolved, That, having enjoyed, during our sessions of eight days' continuance, the marked kindness and hospitality of the members of Grace Church, and of the citizens of the cities of Pittsburg and Allegheny, we, as a Synod, do hereby return our sincere and hearty thanks to them for such favors, with the prayer that the blessings of divine grace may abundantly rest upon them and their families.

Resolved, That the pastor *loci* announce this resolution from the pulpit, and the reporters report it for publication, in the daily papers of Pittsburgh.

THE SEXTON REMUNERATED.

On motion,

Resolved, That a committee, consisting of Rev. John Rebaugh and Elder Henry Leonard, be appointed to take up a collection for the purpose of remunerating Mr. J. Steiner, sexton of Grace Church, for his services during the whole of the sessions of this Synod.

The Committee, in compliance with the foregoing resolution, collected the sum of \$13.25, and paid over the same as directed.

The Minutes were read and adopted, and ordered to be engrossed.

The roll was called, and none were found absent without excuse, except Rev. Geo. Rettig, John I. Swander, Samuel B. Leiter, and Elders Hugh Moore, John C. Kremer and Thos. W. Chapman.

The Synod adjourned at 10 o'clock, after a harmonious, important and encouraging convocation of eight days, to meet at the time appointed. Closed with singing, and prayer and the apostolic benediction by Rev. Dr. D. Zacharias.

JOHN W. NEVIN, *President.*

ISAAC H. REITER, *Secretary.*

That the foregoing is a true copy from the original Minutes of this General Synod, is hereby attested by

ISAAC H. REITER, *Secretary.*

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